

BANGLADESH: THE EMERGING HOPE OF SUPPORTING ISLAM

For the Muslim masses of Bangladesh
on the occasion of the current public uprising

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله محمد وآله وصحبه أجمعين وبعد!

To the Muslim Masses of Bangladesh and especially our brothers of the Religious Community!

Assalam u Alaikum Wa Rahtmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu!

It is no ordinary event that the group that had become symbolic of injustice and corruption, that imposed itself upon the Muslims of Bangladesh, turning them into slaves of the polytheistic Hindus, exploiting them, and upon hands of which the religious people of Bangladesh faced the worst atrocities and oppression, today the Muslims of Bangladesh rose as a storm of hatred and fury, and then neither the bullets fired at them were heeded, nor the bullying batons... every obstacle was overcome and at last the statues of secularism and atheism were toppled and dragged in the mud... with the grace of Allah, the chief of this group of criminals could not face this flood for long, and soon made her escape thus ending the regime of oppression and cruelty. Today the resolve that can be seen on the faces of the people, the zeal that occupies their hearts, and the hope that lights up their eyes, is a proclamation that this nation shall no longer tolerate any more injustice or oppression, that atheism and Kufr shall no longer be allowed to be promoted, the cloak of fear and degradation has been discarded and the struggle for honour and liberty, for justice and equality shall now become its national struggle. May Allah give perpetuity to these sentiments and may He grant this nation

steadfastness and (divine) guidance in every affair. All the students and the common people who partook in this movement are worthy of praise, those who were martyred in this struggle against injustice, may Allah have mercy upon them, may He grant a swift recovery to the injured and may He grant us the steadfastness and resolve of never surrendering to oppression or being deceived by satanic deceptions. May our resolve, sincerity and our struggle ever be our weapons until Bangladesh becomes, in its essence, a fort of Islam and the true system based on justice and fair play is established.

Dear Brothers!

Undoubtedly this is an event of celebration and joy, but with the utmost respect I say this to my brothers, that this is not the destination. Our goal is still further away, and if we do not employ a readiness and wakefulness, and a sense of responsibility towards our duty, then there is a risk that this victory might even cause our real goal to move further away from us. This system that stands on cruelty and corruption cannot be fixed by a mere changing of the faces, or by a couple of amendments, for its roots are old and deep, and the interests of the greatest demons of this world are attached to it, so although a mass revolution is a great matter, for the people to rise and clash to achieve a great purpose is not a matter of little significance, but even greater importance resides in making a revolution successful and ensuring that its objectives are achieved.

Honourable Brothers!

As you are aware that a few years ago the world witnessed the Arab Spring, in which the people in their thousands and millions, marched out on the streets. It was a movement, the likes of whose greatness the Arab world had never seen before, regimes were overthrown, (the figures of authority) faces were changed, we even saw the despot and dictator of 30 years being thrown into jail in Egypt, and then elections

were held and the people's representatives succeeded in making a new government, but then what happened? ...Some time passed and we saw these representatives either being thrown into jails or being martyred, and the corrupt group that is the loyal servant of the enemy, remains to this day the sole sovereign power in Egypt. Not in a single Arab country, did revolution meet its real objective. the people remain deprived, oppressed and dominated while the enemies of Islam and the people are still dominant even today.

The same case can be observed in Pakistan where the people mobilized against the status quo innumerable times, sometimes with one name and sometimes with another, on every occasion the hopes of breaking the chains of slavery were spread and cherished, but the history of Pakistan is witness to the fact that no matter who was outwardly enthroned, the actual power and authority remained in the hands of the anti-Islam military Generals.

So, if we content ourselves today with a few apparent gains, we satisfy ourselves and our hopes surge with mere clash and clamour while not striving to learn anything from the long history of failed revolutions in the Islamic World, then it would be a great misfortune indeed. And even greater an injustice would it be to a nation which has been, for the past 70 years, subjected to ill-treatment and degradation at the hands of their own brethren, and at the hands of others. To the extent that today, neither the people have any more tolerance for being fooled any more or for giving the enemy any excuse to laugh at them, nor the collective situation of the Muslim Ummah is such that may allow once again, for the sincere and pure sentiments of the Muslim masses to be exploited, and the great sacrifices of the people to go to waste.

Given these circumstances, the religious leadership and the religious community are that part of society, who are burdened with the greatest weight of (the nation's) responsibility, for I say this without any fear of over-emphasizing the matter, that this section of society is the section

with whose purpose, struggle and movement, lies the success or defeat of the whole nation. If they fulfil their duty, and support the banner of Truth with the utmost sincerity, fortitude, resolution and strategy, then there remains no doubt that the land of Haji Shariatullah shall once again become an example and model for the whole Ummah. For this is the section of society that is already familiar with the meaning of sincerity and sacrifice, and which has during this time spent many oppressive days. But if this religious community somehow fails in realizing and shouldering its responsibility and in setting its priorities in order, then it is hundred percent certain that no other person, no matter how accomplished or capable, how experienced or mature, or how sincere a sentiment they may possess of serving their nation, but until and unless they are willing to tread the path desired by Allah SWT, and to lead their nation onto that path, it is impossible to guide the masses out of the discontent and mess they are in.

Therefore, we deem it necessary to present our brothers of the religious community and our elders with a few requests, that may serve as a reminder.

First:

Every man of this nation longs for deliverance, every one of us yearns to turn our hardships into ease, our discontent into contentment and prosperity, therefore it is incumbent upon us to determine the real causes of oppression and misery. To uproot these causes should then be our target, and for that purpose, we must educate our nation about them, so that they may stand with us in our struggle and movement. If this can be achieved, then the doors of blessings and Barakah shall be opened for us, and justice and fair play shall be established on Allah's land, with His permission.

Allah, the Lord, the Most Honourable says:

﴿...فَمَنِ اتَّبَعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا يَضِلُّ وَلَا يَشْقَى ۖ وَمَنْ أَعْرَضَ عَن ذِكْرِي فَإِنَّ لَهُ مَعِيشَةً ضَنْكًا...﴾ (سورة طه: ١٢٣، ١٢٤)

“...the one who follows My guidance shall not go astray, nor shall he be in trouble .As for the one who turns away from My message, he shall have a straitened life...”

And the Book of Allah says :

﴿إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ﴾ (سورة لقمان: ١٣)

“As for the one who turns away from My message, he shall have a straitened life.”

And Allah Subhanahu wa Ta’ala says:

﴿وَمَنْ لَّمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ﴾ (سورة البائدة: ٥٠)

“Those who do not judge according to what Allah has sent down, they are the unjust.”

Similarly, Allah the most High says:

﴿وَلَوْ أَن أَهْلَ الْقُرَىٰ آمَنُوا وَاتَّقَوْا فَفَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَرَكَاتٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَكِن كَذَّبُوا فَأَخَذْنَاهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ﴾ (سورة الاعراف: ٩٦)

“If the people of the towns believed and feared Allah, We would have opened for them blessings from the heavens and the earth, but they disbelieved. So, We seized them because of what they used to earn for themselves.”

Therefore...

The nation must be exposed to this vital reality, and it must be expounded with the greatest measure of clarity and explicitness, without fear or favour, that the only way we can find deliverance from corruption and tribulations, from injustice and oppression, and from tyranny and exploitation is when we turn back to Our Lord, Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, individually and collectively as a nation, and establish such a system of governance in which sovereignty and authority belongs to Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, and where the Shariah of the Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), would be the law of the land.

Hence, we must make this the sole criterion of our movement and struggle and of its success or failure. This must be the most fundamental, unchangeable and key principle, upon which our movement stands, and all hurdles that block our path, should then be dealt with in accordance with this principle, while striving to win the nation's support so that this principle becomes our unifying and strengthening base.

Similarly we must strive to raise the nation, so that we have its support and cooperation, in achieving the goals of obliterating any and all kinds of infidelity and kufr, atheism and deviances, immorality and immodesty and those who spread and propagate them, should be made to understand that they shall no longer be tolerated in the land of Bengal, as well as the interest-based economical system and the touts of "Zionist Hindutva", instead, spreading hatred and animosity for them and starting a resistance against them should form a crucial part of our movement.

Secondly:

the point discussed above comprises the purpose and objective for us. this is what we should make da'wah for (what we must call towards), this is the basis upon which we must unify and organize our people, this

is the goal that we must strive to achieve, and if these aims can be achieved then the nation shall be liberated and the paths (from) whence come exploitation, oppression and tyranny shall finally be blocked. But in the current situation when one regime has fallen, and the military is trying to win the confidence of the masses, and a caretaker government has been formed in response to the demands by the students and political parties, the question for us is that whether it shall be possible to achieve these objectives?! If not, then what could be the methods we could employ to achieve them? What would be the path of action that, if taken, would ensure that the Islamic Movement in Bangladesh shall never be forced to retreat?

In this regard, our most basic and critical entreaty is that it is essential for the religious community to embrace the path of spreading and propagating their da'wah among the masses, of strengthening and fortifying their capability for resistance and revolution, and of forcing the government system through this capability to make amendments and rectifications, while staying completely aloof and indifferent from (gaining?) the government itself. This entreaty is backed by three basic reasons:

1. First, that we cannot close our eyes to the reality that as long as the militaries trained and organized by the colonizer are present in our lands, and have not been replaced by a purely Islamic force and movement with respect to its beliefs, ideology and character, until then the religious community have no defensive or executionary force, and remain at the mercy of these corrupt and faithless militaries. And it would be upon the whim of these military generals, whether they choose to take them to the corridors of power and authority, or to sentence them to execution, impose sanctions and prohibitions upon them, and fill up jail cells with them. So, in context of this imbalance of power, our weakness and their strength, we must focus our abilities in propagating our dawah, and strengthening our force. For this

purpose, it is necessary that we determine deepening and strengthening the roots of our movement and dawah in the people as our primary objective. In contrast, if we trust the military and take part in forming a government, then it would be like cutting our feet by ourselves.

2. The second reason is that the political circles that seemed like cooperative alliances in the task of overthrowing Hasina Wajid, a vast majority of them shall become the obstacles of your path in embracing Islam as a collective religion for all and as a complete code of life. It is because they are not concerned with Islam or Kufr, their only concern remains their own appetite and lusts. They may be displeased with the slaves of India today, but they have no issue with the slaves of America. Whosoever offers them the fulfilment of their desires, shall find their necks eager and impatient for the slave collar.

3. The third reason being that this system is based upon servitude to those other than Allah, and stands in defiance and rebellion towards Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala. To raise it on the basis of Shari'ah is the most important obligation we are faced with and unless and until the religious community possess such a force whose path cannot be blocked or hindered by any political or military force, until then there is no hope of helping, supporting or bringing about the triumph of Haqq (the truth and justice) by participating in the current system. On the contrary it would further strengthen this anti-religion system based on injustice and oppression. Whenever the Taghuti System involves the religious people in the affairs of governance, it does not make the system any bit Islamic on any level, rather during this process, the religious community has to make compromises on their basic principles, which consequently weakens them against the forces of Batil (evil), instead of strengthening their da'wah and movement by focusing their energies and abilities upon it, they (unintentionally) strengthen the Batil system and that in consequence, deprives them of the assistance and support of Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala.

Therefore, it is essential that instead of aiming to participate in the next government, the religious community should aim to utilize the current atmosphere of change to support the religion. They should concentrate upon training and preparing their people, on correcting and reforming them, and upon consolidating their force. And within this context, they must shoulder the responsibility of rectifying and supervising the whole system, which includes the military and bureaucracy with the help of their revolutionary force and movement. To obliterate all anti-Islam and anti-people elements from the governing system should be the objective of this movement.

Our religious community must form a plan of action for performing the vital and purely Shar'i matters like Da'wal Ilal Khair (Call towards Good), Amr bil Ma'ruf (Commanding the good) and Nahi Anil Munkar (prohibiting the Evil). And while putting together such a plan, we must give key importance to the principles of the rejection of Taghut, the awareness of Allah's right of Rule, the necessity of obedience to the Shari'ah, of loving and hating, of befriending and being hostile towards anyone on the basis of it being for the sake of Allah, in our Da'wah and movement.

My Dear Brothers !

This movement shall demand of you a very strenuous struggle, great sacrifices, and patience and fortitude of the utmost degree, but in its effectiveness, it shall be In sha Allah, the exact opposite of all our past experiences. Da'wah and Tarbiah, and demonstrations and resistance shall be its weapons. We shall not reach our destination in a trice, and in the current circumstances, the destination we yearn for cannot be acquired any way, but with this movement the people of Bangladesh shall come closer to their destination with every passing day and every step taken. They shall play a more positive and effective role on the level of the Ummah in the conflict raging between Haqq (Right) and Batil (Evil). Thus, the land of Bengal which once held the status of

being the military and ideological centre and stronghold of Zionist Hindutva, by virtue of this movement this land shall become a centre and a preparatory ground for the Mujahideen of Islam, by the permission of Allah.

But dear brothers!

In contrast to this, the other available path has been tried, tested and tried yet again in the past 70- 80 years by the religious people of the sub-continent, rather the whole Islamic world, and has been found to be ineffective, more precisely the participation of the religious community in governance and their politics did not benefit them or bring them any good in Pakistan, Egypt, Bangladesh or Tunisia. Instead the reality remains that in opposition to these governments and militaries, where these religious organizations were supposed to play their role of Amr bil Maruf and Nahi anil Munkar, they performed the task of protecting and guarding these anti-religion systems, which resulted in strengthening the religion-hating, anti-Islam forces in the country and society. Then the religious people faced executions, bullets fired at them, expulsion and exile from their country and their getting a ban on their da'wah and movement. And even after giving all these sacrifices, they continued to grow weaker and weaker, while the forces of evil grew stronger in the form of the army and military. So much so that today they can be credited with the protection of Israel in Gaza, for these are the forces that are fighting against the mujahideen of Al Quds in their own countries, all for the sake of defending and protecting America and Israel, for the last 30 years.

And a believer cannot be deceived by the same deception twice, for the Apostle of Allah said:

”لَا يُدْعُ مُؤْمِنٌ مِنْ جُحْرِ وَاحِدٍ مَرَّتَيْنِ.” (بخاری شریف)

“A believer is not stung twice (by something) out of one and the same hole.”

If we still neglect to reconsider our behaviour of acting with regard to these militaries and governments in our respective countries and fail to answer the demands of resistance and reform, that our religion and Ummah ask of us today, and which have become today a religious and national obligation by every measure of history, reason or any other criterion of the world, then it is as if we are collectively asking to be bitten from the same snake hole whose poison is the cause of our slaughter in Gaza today, the massacre of our people in Kashmir, and the repression of our brothers in Pakistan and India. If that is what we choose to do, then you may rest assured that the religion of Allah shall continue to raise those who aid and defend it, i.e. its Ansar and Mujahideen. But in this war between Good (Haqq) and Evil (Batil), the consequences of the position we have chosen for ourselves are already apparent in this world, but how will we answer our Lord in Akhirah, if questioned that why did we choose to walk the path that led to failure and humiliation? Why did you not concern yourselves with preparing (for war) and amassing your forces? Why did you not fulfil your obligation? We put our trust in Allah and hope that our beloved brothers of Bangladesh shall take steps towards supporting and strengthening the religion of Islam, they shall foil every tactic and strategy of the enemies of Islam, they shall neither bend before any oppression, nor be fooled by any deceiver, instead they shall put their trust in Allah and shall not allow any passage for the devils to enforce themselves on the believers.

In the end I bring to your attention this most important request: that you are watching American-led Zionist-Hindutva alliance against Islam and the Muslim Ummah, unfold its aggression in Gaza. The truth is that today the Islamic world is directly or indirectly in the clutches of this alliance. It is their oppression which is the root cause of all misery and

wretchedness from Pakistan, India and Kashmir to Gaza and the whole Arab world, and the Muslim world in its entirety is in a miserable state. The atrocities that transpired in Bangladesh are but one link of the chain of atrocities and brutalities of this same Zionist-Hindutva alliance. To wage jihad against the leaders of Kufr, and their slaves and toadies, is a binding obligation upon every Muslim today. Jihad against these forces of evil is the most important necessity for the Ummah today, we need to wage Jihad on a global level, only when the interests of the leaders of kufr are targeted and destroyed, shall their arrogance be checked and our jihad shall succeed. And only then shall the Muslims of Gaza breathe a sigh of relief, and Masjid al Aqsa shall be liberated and Allah shall open up the obstructed paths for all Muslims of the subcontinent. Therefore, hasten in putting in your share of practical efforts in this jihad, and strive to raise your nation so they may stand by your side.

I end my speech with the prayer that may Allah guide you and us, may He fill our hearts with faith (Iman), steadfastness and the light of divine guidance, may He enable us to aid and assist all the oppressed, and to raise the standard of the religion of Islam. May Allah protect the Muslims of Bangladesh from every evil, may He change their fears with security, their weakness with strength, and their division with unity. May Allah, the Most Honourable, bestow upon them the honour of assisting His religion, may He reward them with the good of this world and the next, and may He protect them from all Evil, Amin.

وآخر دعوانا أن الحمد لله رب العالمين.